

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SSO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /037 W

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O 150225Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7627

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT TO EA: WELLINGTON MEETING WITH
LEADER OF OPPOSITION

REFS: (A) STATE 030062 (B) WELLINGTON 0372

1. FOREIGN POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND
OPPOSITION TEND TO BE MORE OF DEGREE THAN SUBSTANCE.
KIRK EXPANDING TIES WITH PACIFIC AND ASIAN NEIGHBORS
FASTER THAN MARSHALL COULD HAVE HAD HE REMAINED PM.
WHILE OPPOSITION CONDEMNED KIRK'S QUICK RECOGNITION
OF PEKING, NATIONAL PARTY GOVERNMENT
WAS MOVING IN SAME DIRECTION AT SLOWER PACE.
MARSHALL MORE ORIENTED TOWARD EUROPE AND US THAN KIRK.
HE ALSO HAS GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF AND
CONFIDENCE IN US ROLE IN THE PACIFIC WITNESS HIS
SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM AND SEATO. MARSHALL'S POSITION
ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN
KIRK'S. HE HAS GIVEN NO SUPPORT TO SOUTH PACIFIC
NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL. AS AN INDIVIDUAL
MARSHALL MORE PRAGMATIC, DOLLARS AND CENTS ORIENTED
THAN KIRK WHOSE POLICIES GENERALLY GUIDED BY MORALITY.
KIRK'S CANCELLATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY TOUR SEEN
BY MARSHALL AS UNNECESSARY INTERFERENCE IN SPORTS
WHILE LABOUR'S TRIPLING OF FOREIGN AID PROGRAM
CONSIDERED FINANCIALLY UNWISE.

2. MARSHALL MOST LIKELY TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT
US VIEW OF FUTURE OF ASIA AND PACIFIC SPECIFICALLY
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A) ESTIMATE OF NEAR AND LONG TERM PROSPECTS FOR

CHINA AND JAPAN AND B) POSSIBILITIES OF STABILITY IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA. MARSHALL WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN
MIDDLE EAST QUESTION GENERALLY AND OIL ISSUE IN
PARTICULAR. ON ALL OF THESE POINTS EMBASSY BELIEVES
BEST TALKING POINT APPROACH IS TO GIVE AS FULL A
BRIEFING TO MARSHALL AS POSSIBLE ACCOMPANIED BY
ASSURANCES THAT US WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP INTERESTS
OF NZ IN MIND AND WILL KEEP GNZ INFORMED OF OUR
INITIATIVES AND THE OUTCOMES THEREOF. MARSHALL WILL
WANT TO KNOW OF ANY POSSIBILITIES OF MORE REGULAR AND
INCREASED TRADE BETWEEN US AND NZ. (REFTEL B).

3. BELIEVE DEPSEC SHOULD NOTE US APPRECIATION FOR
MARSHALL'S (AND HIS PARTY'S) LONG TIME SUPPORT FOR
US POLICIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (VIETNAM, SEATO,
ANZUS).
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